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ADELINE COOPER.

(From Good Words.)

As far as the changes which have of late years taken place in the aspect of London by the formation of new streets, railway termini, and other improvements, perhaps there is not a district which has undergone a more complete metamorphosis than that of St. Margaret's, Westminster. Thirty or forty years ago there was not a parish in the Metropolis which had obtained (and perhaps justly) a wider reputation for poverty and degradation. A large proportion of the land was held by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster—a body which in those days was composed of a very different order of men from the gentlemen who fortunately have succeeded them. They and their predecessors appear to have taken but little interest in the spiritual and social condition of their tenants; things being allowed pretty much to take their course, provided the quit-rents and the heavy fines imposed on the renewal of leases were regularly paid. These fines were so onerous, and the duration of the leases on which the houses were let so short, that their tenants and sub-tenants were to a great degree precluded from building good houses on the ground. The result was that the quarter was crowded with streets, alleys, and courts of a most miserable and squalid description, while the inhabitants who flocked to them, in consequence of the demolition of houses in the western parts of the Metropolis, and the natural increase of the population, were of a character wholly ill-suited to the dwellings which had been erected for their reception. The meantime the parochial authorities took little interest in the matter. The guardians of the poor, though nominally elected from the parishioners at large, were in fact no better than self-elected. They were generally chosen from small tradesmen in the locality, who, so long as they could enjoy their parish dinners in peace and comfort, cared very little about the moral condition of the poor under their guardianship; and if occasionally a member somewhat more public-spirited than his brethren proposed some amelioration of the disgraceful state of things then existing, his attempts were soon stopped by the indifference which pervaded the majority. By degrees, however, a different state of feeling began to develop itself among the parochial authorities. Some innovators, who were looked upon by the old parish magistrates as little better than disturbers of the public peace, began to take exception to the amounts recorded in the parish balance-sheet for feasting and other outlays. Again, another most disagreeable fact began to thrust itself upon the notice of the guardians. Although they admitted that a large proportion of the inhabitants were most demoralised, still vice could not go on without the expenditure of money, and as tradesmen they had hitherto had but little to complain of. But fresh population continued to flow into their parish, and the new comers were invariably of the poorest order, so that, although the retail trade continued to flourish, the poor's rate increased in a still greater ratio; and while they benefited as traders by the increase in the number of the inhabitants, as ratepayers they suffered in a still greater proportion.

The parochial authorities now roused themselves in good earnest to meet the difficulty, although the plan they adopted was hardly of a nature to be commended. The sole object they seemed to have in view was to drive the poor out of their parish, and that by the exceedingly simple process of destroying their dwellings. To effect this, by aid of an Act of Parliament, an arrangement was entered into with the Dean and Chapter, on whose estate the worst portion of the poor were congregated, for the formation of a broad new street reaching from Westminster Abbey to Piccadilly. Great difficulties, however, had to be encountered before the scheme could be carried out, but at last they succeeded; and many thousands of the poorest individuals to be found in the metropolis were driven out of the parish. Still, in a moral point of view the movement was not so successful as its promoters had anticipated. Although the poor's rates were certainly to a great degree reduced by it, and a vast number of bad characters got rid of, yet many, and those of the worst class, remained behind; and from the scarcity of house accommodation they became more crowded, and in consequence more demoralised. The overcrowding—as shown by the returns of the medical officer of health—is even at the present day utterly disgraceful. Model lodging-houses on a grand scale have certainly been built, but regulations were established by their promoters very adverse to their being really successful. All persons getting their means of living in the streets, such as petty hawkers, costermongers, and others of the same class, were precluded from being tenants, and thus the great evil remains almost untouched. Not the slightest better provision was made for these poor creatures, and the result was that, both physically and morally, they fell from bad to worse, till at last to be as great a thorn as a Tothill Fields costermonger became a common phase of abuse among the lowest and most degraded.

But while the misery and vice thus continued to exist with little apparent abatement, there was no lack of effort on the part of the resident clergy of all denominations to improve the condition of the inhabitants. But these efforts had comparatively little good effect when compared with the vast amount of labour employed. Nor was this to be wondered at while the magistrates licensed gin palaces by the score, and the authorities, governmental or parochial, availed themselves of every pretext for destroying the dwellings of the poor to carry out some contemplated improvement.

Those who were already overcrowded were thus packed still closer together, and the moral and social evils, already too notorious, were greatly increased. Notwithstanding this unfavourable state of affairs, there were still many benevolent persons who believed that the population of the district was as capable of being raised to respectability as any portion of the community, if only common justice were done them. Considering the injustice of municipal legislation, and the numerous licenses, they were probably right. Still nothing very conclusive was done in the matter till a young lady—Miss Adeline Cooper—undertook to prove the truth of this opinion; and most triumphantly has she succeeded in her truly heroic self-imposed mission.

The history of Miss Cooper's labours among the poor of Westminster furnishes a singular example of that tenacity of purpose so often found among our countrywomen. No obstacle too vast for her to surmount. About ten years ago some benevolent persons interested in a Ragged School in Westminster were on the point of closing its doors for want of funds. One of them, however, proposed that before doing so they should apply to her friend Miss Cooper for advice and assistance on the subject, as Miss Cooper had had great

experience in the management of schools for the children of the poor in the neighbourhood of Pimlico. The lady's advice was acted on, Miss Cooper readily accepted the invitation given her, and by dint of united efforts the school was kept open. While engaged in teaching these poor children, Miss Cooper had an opportunity of becoming acquainted with many of the inhabitants of the district, and she resolved to do something to raise them out of the abject poverty and degradation in which they were sunk. For this purpose she rented two little cottages in a court in Old Pye-street—since swept away by the improvement commissioners—and she there commenced day and night Sunday schools, as well as a mothers' meeting. Not only had she plenty of applicants, but the rooms became so overcrowded that she was obliged to look for more extensive accommodation. She had some difficulty in succeeding, but she at last found a building which for size and situation was admirably adapted for the purpose. Singularly enough, in this new building she found an opportunity to point a moral—and a forcible one too. The house she had selected had formerly been the "One Tun," a notorious public-house, which was then vacant in consequence of the tenants having decamped without paying their rent, and stealing everything they could possibly take away with them. At the outset Miss Cooper experienced great opposition from a number of roughs who had been accustomed to drink and gamble at the "One Tun." They voted the school a nuisance, and openly threatened the teachers that if they did not "clear out of it" they should be driven away by force. No notice was taken of this threat, and Miss Cooper and her assistants kept steadily on their course, when the angry feeling among the roughs began to gradually subside, and they afterwards showed many acts of kindness to the resident teachers. And it is only justice to them to add, that on no occasion did they ever subject the ladies connected with the school to the slightest annoyance.

Noticing the terrible effects of intemperance in the neighbourhood both on old and young, Miss Cooper, after taking the temperance pledge herself, established a band of hope for the children, which was also attended with marked success. The reason she gave for becoming a teetotaler was not that at the time she considered the moderate use of fermented drinks objectionable, but that it would not be right on her part to ask persons who were badly fed and ill-clothed and housed, exposed to drenching rain or burning heat, and subjected to every kind of temptation, to give up the habit while she herself had every comfort. Her efforts to inculcate sobriety on the adults were not so encouraging as she could have wished. True, they advised their children to abstain, and even admitted that arguments as applied to themselves were worthy of great consideration, but, unfortunately, they generally chose the tap-room as the locality for discussing the matter, it may be easily imagined that Miss Cooper's reasoning in such an atmosphere lost a considerable portion of its effect. She attempted to induce the men to attend her meetings in the schoolroom at the "One Tun." They were all civil enough when invited, but they still stayed away, while the room was nearly filled with women and children. By degrees Miss Cooper ascertained some of the reasons which operated against her. First, it was thought *infra dig.* to go to a school; secondly, on that special evening some might have to work all night; others might have had a day in selling their wares, and were obliged to try again in the evening; while the majority, when asked, gave for an excuse that they had forgotten all about it.

Annoyed at her want of success, but still not discouraged, Miss Cooper determined to try another plan to induce the men to become sober. She resolved on establishing a club in a different locality, where the men might have full opportunity of meeting together in commodious, well-lighted rooms, and where they might be free from the temptation of the public-house, and be able to coolly reason on the advantages of sobriety. For some time she could find no house suitable, but at last she heard that a piece of ground in Duck-lane, Westminster, was to be let on a building lease. This, with the assistance of some friends, she took a lease of, and on it was built a handsome, lofty room, well-lighted, warmed, and ventilated, and with every convenience attached to it. In this building Miss Cooper established her costermongers' club. In its organisation she was considerably assisted by several gentlemen who had always been her warmest supporters. Possibly the regulations which Miss Cooper would have liked to have seen carried into effect might have been somewhat more stringent than those advised by her male friends, several of whom, having had experience of the working of the West End clubs, advised her to allow the members to form their own code of regulations unbiassed by any surveillance or restrictions whatever. Miss Cooper readily agreed to this suggestion, and one of her friends, a Civil Engineer, assisted in drawing up a code of regulations somewhat like those of the Reform Club, of which he was a member. These rules were merely offered to the members for their guidance, leaving them their own rules, for the power was left to them to adopt or accept these as they might think fit.

A meeting of the members was now called to take into consideration the formation of a code of laws by which the affairs of the club were to be regulated. A sufficient number of members having enrolled themselves to allow of its being opened. The different rules were then put *in seriem*, and all were carried without difficulty. At last a question was brought before the meeting which caused poor Miss Cooper the greatest anxiety. The question was whether they should apply for a beer license for the club, and her trouble was still further increased at finding that the first person who rose to speak on the subject was far better known for his industry and shrewdness than his sobriety. He addressed the meeting in something like the following words:—

"Now, I'll tell you what my opinion about this beer license is. I ain't a teetotaler, and I don't intend being one; and when I want a pint of beer I intend having it, providing I can afford to pay for it. Now, if I want a pint of beer, I can go to a public-house for it; but if I want to keep away from beer, and I very often do, I can come here. Now, if beer's sold here, I don't see the difference between this and a public-house, or what's the use of my being a member any longer, so I shall hold up my hand against any beer license being had."

All the other speakers followed in the same tone, and on the question being put, "whether a beer license should be applied for," Miss Cooper had the unspeakable gratification to find that it was unanimously rejected. But more remains to be told. The luxury of being able to get away from beer began to be felt by the members of the club, while several, finding they could do without beer, gave it up altogether, and became teetotalers. On the evening of the meeting for

passing the rules, the club, which numbered one hundred and twenty members, counted among them only twenty-five teetotalers; a few weeks afterwards, more than half the members had taken the pledge.

The more Miss Cooper saw of her new acquaintances, the costermongers, the more fully she became convinced that a very great injustice had been done them by the estimate the public had formed of them. True, they had many faults, and were prone to many vices, but the dishonesty of which they were accused was not common among them. On the contrary, many instances came under her notice of honourable actions which would have been creditable to any class of society. Again, a very singular feature was noticeable in their behaviour to each other. The Westminster costermonger, being generally a man of weakly constitution, is obliged to wage the battle of life by aid of his cunning and address. Accustomed from his early youth to mercantile transactions, which, though in a very small way, are possibly quite as intricate and require as much tact in their management as those of greater magnitude, he naturally becomes a very clever financier, seldom entering into any bargain without a clear prospect of gain. Yet, notwithstanding all his shrewdness, Miss Cooper found him continually giving up perhaps as much as half his capital in loans without interest to a brother costermonger in temporary distress; and the readiness with which he advanced his money was usually the greater in proportion to the possible inability of the borrower to repay it. She further noticed the great kindness and solicitude which they showed towards each other when in sickness, and the prompt manner in which they would get up subscriptions for the widows or orphans of any deceased members of their class. These and other evidence of Christian feeling being so obvious to Miss Cooper, she attempted to inculcate upon the members of her club a more religious tone, and in a short time a very efficient Bible class was formed in it. In the meantime the temperance movement progressed rapidly among the members, and in this Miss Cooper received great assistance from the celebrated George Cruikshank, the artist, who joined her committee and used frequently to take the chair at the meetings, making himself exceedingly popular among the costermongers, thus doing good service in the cause of sobriety.

Meanwhile the schools established in the "One Tun" continued to flourish. The band of hope also continued to prosper. Miss Cooper established among the members of the band a penny bank, which was held in high favour among the young teetotalers. They encouraged it to such an extent that last Christmas she had the satisfaction of returning to them more than eighty pounds which they had saved during the year.

Miss Cooper now fondly hoped that her labours would go on without further impediment, but she was doomed to be greatly disappointed. A terrible onslaught was made by the police on the costermongers who were wont to ply their trade in the Broadway, Westminster. This attempt of the police at the time roused great indignation among many of the well-wishers of the poor, and the police received from all sides great blame for their arbitrary conduct. The police at first tried to defend themselves by pleading that the costermongers and hawkers whom they had driven away were little better than thieves, but Miss Cooper and her friends roundly asserted that this was not the fact, and challenged them to prove their case. The police then shifted their ground, and stated that the hawkers and costermongers caused great impediment to the traffic, and also severely injured the trade of the legitimate shopkeepers in the vicinity. This last assertion, however, was fully disproved by the shopkeepers themselves, who said that these poor people, so far from being an impediment to the retail trade of the neighbourhood, rather brought customers than drove them away.

While Miss Cooper was devoting all her energies to the defence of the oppressed, she received another rebuff, which would have damped the courage of any one less determined than herself. One morning a notice was sent her from the improvement commissioners, that it was necessary her club-house should give way to make room for some alterations they proposed to effect, and that she would shortly be obliged to leave it. At the same time an intimation was conveyed to her, that she would be fully compensated for her interest in the building. Annoyed but not discouraged, she now looked around her to find some other spot in the neighbourhood to which she could remove. She was without success, however. The value of land had so much increased in Westminster, that the compensation commissioners was insufficient for the purpose of re-establishing her institution near the spot from which she had been ejected. For some time she was at a loss what steps to take, when a friend sprang up where she had little expected to find one. The report of her exertions on behalf of the friendless poor had reached the ears of the Marquis of Westminster. After making inquiries on the subject, and finding the statements he had heard as to the good she had effected were quite true, the marquis kindly offered to lend her £7600, at 3 per cent. interest. It is almost needless to say, the noble marquis's offer was accepted with gratitude by Miss Cooper, in fact she looked upon it in the fullest sense of the term as a Godsend to her. She was now, not only in a position to establish her club, but to unite to it a model lodging-house, for those of the poor who were unable to become tenants of other model lodging-houses in the neighbourhood.

She now sought for some other locality in which she could commence operations. She at last discovered a vacant piece of freehold ground, and four old houses, situated in the corner of Pye-street and St. Anne's-lane, which were purchased for £2260, and on this she not only erected her club, but also a dwelling-house sufficiently large to accommodate fifty or sixty of those families who were ineligible, from the lowliness of their weekly wages, or their daily avocations, for any other model lodging-house. Mr. Peabody's included, where none but men earning from eighteen to twenty shillings a week could be admitted. The expense of the whole building, beyond the cost of the freehold land, was £6300, including £165 for stores, and £335 for iron joists, the whole with legal and other expenses amounting to nearly £9000.

Few who are acquainted with the general aspect of working men's clubs would recognise at first sight that erected for the costermongers, street hawkers, and others of the poorest class in Westminster. The building was designed by Mr. Henry M. Byton, of Buckingham-street, Strand, and of Ipswich, and would not disgrace the handsomest street in the Metropolis. The portion of the building set apart for the club has a general room, thirty-two feet by twenty-four, and thirteen feet high, with a lavatory and other accommodations attached,

also a kitchen and library. Over the club-room is a lecture-room, thirty-two feet by twenty-four, and also a committee-room and office. In the dwelling-house, which is entered from St. Anne's-lane, there are seventeen single tenements, thirty-eight with two rooms, five with three rooms, let off at one and ninepence, three shillings, and four and sixpence a week. The entrance to each tenement is at the back, from stone external galleries; on each landing are two water-closets, a washing-sink, and a tap with water laid on to both, also two dust-shafts. Each of the living-rooms has one of Nicholson's grates with oven and boiler, a lock-up ladder, and a coal-closet; one of the most remarkable features in the building, and perhaps the most to be commended, is the wash-house placed on the top floor, by which arrangement the inmates of the dwelling-houses are not annoyed by the steam from the washing. It is a large and lofty room with seven coppers and washing troughs, also two drying closets properly fitted up; all the floors in the building are of iron and concrete boarded over, and the lintels of strong bar iron, no timber being used in the construction; and the stairs are of York stone, built into the walls on both sides, so that, as far as practicable, the building is fire-proof.

In a portion of the building, forming the angle of Old Pye-street and St. Anne's-lane, is a handsome double-fronted shop, in which the members have established a co-operative store; this also promises to be a success. It has been open only a month yet, but more than £160 has been taken over the counter.

Including children, there are 242 persons in the dwelling-house; and of these sixty are married couples. If the integrity or respectability of tenants can be proved by the punctual payment of their rent, and the good order and cleanliness of their abodes, there is little more to be desired in those of the Pye-street model lodging-house. Greater cleanliness than pervades the whole at the time of our unexpected visit, we have rarely met with; and, on inquiry of the manager, we found there was not a tenant one week in arrears in rent. Yet the class from which they are taken may be better understood when we state that among the tenants we found twenty-six hawkers and costermongers, two grinders, four blind street-musicians, two cabmen, two chair-menders, one china-mender, six widows—most of them charwomen, and the rest made up of persons in a similar grade of life. Pride and discontent might find many a useful lesson by visiting this establishment. We found two poor widows thankful for the mercy they received in having obtained full employment. One laboured from six in the morning till six at night, sifting cinders in a dust-yard in Paddington, for a wage of ten-pence a day; the other was in full work making skewers for butchers at sevenpence halfpenny a thousand. Not the slightest surveillance or espionage is kept over these poor people, the regulations of the lodging-house, which they are bound to obey, being merely such as are necessary for their mutual comfort. In such high reputation is the establishment held that every room in it was occupied twenty-four hours after it was opened; and applications sufficient to have filled a building ten times the size are on the books from persons waiting for admission.

In the club and dwelling-house, several collateral societies have been formed. A loan society has been established among them—the operations of which now amount to a sum of considerable magnitude, no less than £328 19s. having passed through Miss Cooper's hands in the course of the last year. There is also a Temperance Sick Benefit Society, which is in favour among the teetotalers; and a barrow club, by which members, through paying up small weekly subscriptions, may in time become the freeholders of good substantial barrows. Within the last two years no fewer than fifteen barrows have been bought and paid for in this manner. The penny bank is also a flourishing institution, there being no fewer than 1110 deposits.

No one can with justice dispute the fact that Miss Cooper has worked out her problem in a most satisfactory manner. She has proved that the poorest and most neglected are capable of becoming as respectable and well conducted as any other class of society; that the street hawker, the costermonger, the charwoman, the crossing-sweeper, and the cinder-sifter have all elements of good among them easily capable of development, if they are taken by the hand, and instructed with judgment and discretion. All the ministers of religion in the vicinity of her labours speak of her with respect and affection. Miss Cooper has further added another proof of how powerful is judicious female agency in all well-matured religious and social undertakings. She has set an example well worthy of imitation; let us hope that the lesson will not be lost on those who have the welfare of their poorer fellow-citizens at heart, and are possessed of the ability to further it.

RECENT AFRICAN DISCOVERY.

(From the London Review, October 13.)

THERE is no part of the world in which the progress of exploration is watched by geographers with such interest as the African continent. That peninsula has been the scene of the labours of most of those brave men whose names will ever be inseparably connected with geographical science, and to whose indefatigable labours we are indebted for the knowledge we possess of the interior. Bruce, Park, Lander, Livingstone, Burton, Speke, and Baker have won their laurels in Africa; and the geographical record contains the names of a host of others who have endured equal hardships, but who have not come so prominently before the world as those we have named. Africa was the theatre of exploration for centuries before America or Australia was discovered; before Vasco de Gama had rounded the Cape of Good Hope, or Greenland was discovered by the Icelanders. It is still comparatively unknown, and consequently every feat of exploration is regarded with supreme interest. We have now the pleasure of chronicling something new in the way of discovery, and though its importance may appear to be somewhat dwarfed by the grandeur of Nilotic explorations, or Livingstone's almost superhuman labours, geographers will not fail to assign it a worthy position among the feats which African travellers have performed. Intelligence has just been received that Mr. Frederick Green, one of the boldest elephant hunters of South-west Africa, has succeeded in reaching the Cunene river, the existence of which during the last ten or fifteen years has been enveloped in so much mystery. Since 1824 it has been known that the Cunene or Nourse River flowed into the Atlantic in latitude about 17° south, and was supposed to have its source almost in the centre of Africa. In attempting to reach it, Dr. Holden perished by fever, and Mr. C. Green lost his life by the capriciousness of a canoe, while many others have perished in vain. The supposed Cunene was an object of interest to many travellers and hunters who followed the retreating elephants,

as, year by year, they were driven north from Damara Land. In March, 1889, Mr. C. J. Andersson found a river in latitude 17° 30' south, and longitude about 19° east. He thought at first that the river was the Cunene, but it turned out to be the Okovango, a noble stream 200 or 300 yards broad, apparently of great depth, with a current of two and a half or three miles an hour. The Cunene was known to flow westwards into the Atlantic, but Mr. Andersson found the Okovango flowing to the east, or towards the centre of the continent. The natural conclusion was, that this must be a branch of the great Zambesi; and an intelligent native drew for him on the ground a map, in which he described the river as dividing into two branches near Libebe, one flowing south-east to Lake Ngami, and known as the Tloache, and the other in a more easterly direction to Linyanti, and thence into the Zambesi a little above the Victoria Falls. That the Okovango is a tributary of the Zambesi there is now no doubt, though it is known by different names throughout some parts of its course. The rivers in the interior of Africa are usually known by the names of the chiefs through whose territories they flow; and this explains the numerous designations we often find of the same stream, and which are apt to confuse the general reader.

In his travels Mr. Frederick Green, like Sir Samuel Baker, was accompanied by his wife, who appears to have materially assisted her husband in the perils and hardships to which he was exposed. They went northwards from Ondonga in the far wilds of Ovampoland, and were fortunate enough to secure the friendship of Chikongo, the Ovambo chief, who had formerly been visited by Andersson. The great difficulty in reaching Cunene had hitherto been that of passing unmolested through the different savage tribes of the region, who were unacquainted with Europeans; but by securing the friendship of Chikongo, Mr. Green removed this obstacle, for that chief not only provided the party with people to introduce them to the different tribes who had hitherto been hostile, but sent messengers in advance to the different chiefs, requesting them not only to allow the travellers to pass unhurt through their dominions, but to receive and welcome them as friends of his. Without the aid which Chikongo thus generously afforded, Mr. Green thinks it would have been impossible to have passed through the country unless they had shown a bold front and fought their way, which, with a small force, would have been extremely hazardous. All these native tribes having suffered from the raids of the Namaqua Hottentots, naturally thought all men on horseback were robbers; and once or twice, when Mr. Green and his party arrived, the warriors turned out in force to fight. On one occasion, when they entered the lands of the Ongungwa, which is one of the most warlike tribes of that part of Africa, the travellers were astonished and alarmed to hear the war-cry resounding on every side, and immediately afterwards a hundred warriors in full fighting costume came upon them at full charge. They presented a very formidable appearance with their spears and poisoned arrows; but Chikongo's guides expostulated with them, explaining that it was not a war-party that had invaded their country, and solicited them to lay aside their weapons. Not, however, until some of the Ongungwa were within a few paces of Mr. Green and his party, and were on the point of hurling their spears, were they convinced of the pacific intentions of the explorers, though, when they were assured of this, their warlike demonstration was converted into one of an opposite nature, and instead of exterminating the invaders as they had threatened to do, they greeted them with a friendly reception. All the tribes with whom the travellers came in contact, resembled the Ovambo to a more or less degree, and, with but little difference, adopted the same manner of adorning their persons. An invariable mark, however, by which the tribes, not only in this but in other parts of Africa, may be distinguished from each other, is the mode of dressing the hair, especially among the female sex. The men of the Ongungwa tribe are also distinguished by the peculiar nature of their *coiffure*. Among those tribes, Nahuru, chief of the Wagumbe, is the only individual who wears European costume. Traders come to him from the Portuguese settlements on the coast, and he is, therefore, much more civilised than his neighbours. He gave Mr. Green a most cordial reception, and, like Chikongo, offered to send to all the tribes with whom he had friendly relations, informing them of the arrival of the travellers at his residence, and to desire the chiefs to receive them as his friends.

On arriving at the Cunene, Mr. Green found it surpassing the Okovango both in the size of the stream and its contiguous scenery. The banks of the latter are either covered with cornfields or overgrown with reeds and rank vegetation, and almost entirely destitute of trees. The Cunene, on the contrary, is shaded by large, wide-spreading trees with dense foliage, which nearly meet across from either bank, while the almost obscured stream glides along as smooth as a mirror. It is evident that the two rivers rise in the same locality; and Mr. Green even thinks that the Okovango is a branch of the Cunene. If this supposition be not correct, it is probable that both rise in one of those great marshes which exist in that part of Africa; one stream taking an easterly direction to the Indian Ocean, while the other flows into the Atlantic. This shows that even in that latitude there is water communication across the continent from one coast to the other without any interruption, which may at some future period be made a highway of commerce by which the productions of the interior may be brought to the coast. Between the point, however, at which Mr. Green found the Cunene, and the Atlantic, the river flows through mountain gorges; and the rapidity of the current may possibly interfere with the navigation. With regard to the size of the Cunene we are as yet in comparative ignorance. When Mr. Green saw it the waters were low, though not at their lowest ebb; and, judging from the grass and rubbish carried down when it is fully, he estimated it to rise fifteen or twenty feet above the level at which he observed it. When at its greatest height it inundates a considerable extent of country, and must then have the appearance of a noble stream. Its course is about W.S.W. The water of the Cunene is thick and milky, like that of the Orange river; which is, doubtless, owing to the nature of the soil through which it flows. The Okovango, on the contrary, has no such milky appearance, its water being clear and dark-blue, like that of the sea. The Cunene is studded with many beautiful islands, and the scenery on its banks is very romantic and picturesque. Like the Okovango, it swarms with crocodiles, and hippopotami are also numerous in many parts. Among the different kinds of game to be found in the neighbourhood of the river may be mentioned giraffes, bastard gemsbucks, zebras, wildebeests,

panahs, springbucks, hartebeests, ostriches, and waterbucks. Mr. Green had anticipated finding a fine elephant-hunting ground; but on reaching the river was excessively disappointed to find the country entirely destitute of elephants. The latest intelligence from Mr. Green is dated the 18th February of the present year, when he had returned to within 190 miles of Otjombeue. Having been so disappointed at the absence of elephants from the Cunene, he determined to seek them in a country destitute of natives, and consequently of corn or vegetable food. To the hardships and difficulties he could only expect to find on such an excursion he would not expose his wife, and, therefore, sent her back to her father, Mr. Stewartson, who resides near Otjombeue.

The results of Mr. Green's explorations are extremely interesting, and though he was unable to determine the sources of the Okovango and Cunene, he hopes at some future period to be able to accomplish this desirable object. Our notions with regard to the interior of Africa have of late years been certainly very much modified. The idea formerly prevailed that the greater part of the continent consisted of burning sandy plains, into which rivers ran and were lost. But subsequent explorations have proved this "land of perpetual thirst" to be a well-watered region, and the westernmost branches of the Zambesi form a perfect network of rivers. In consequence of the rainy seasons which prevail in Africa the rivers are periodically flooded; and Libebe, a chief on one of the principal tributaries of the Leeambeue, annually drowns a man in the river to induce the floods. If they are late in coming, Leeshutebe, another of those enlightened potentates, who resides near Lake Ngami, sends to know why the man has not been given to the river. The southern part of the African continent is traversed by rivers almost from one coast to the other. We find the Cunene-Okovango stretching from the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean, and further south the Orange river rises near the eastern shores of the peninsula and falls into the Atlantic. No one but the experienced can tell the difficulties with which travellers have to contend, and the scourges which beset their paths. Not the least of these is the tsetse-fly, which attacks the cattle of the explorers, usually causing their death. It does not, however, attack human beings nor wild animals, and its ravages are confined within certain boundaries. A suggestion has been made to, and will shortly be considered by, the Royal Geographical Society, that the regions infested with this fatal pest shall be marked on the maps, in order that travellers may be made aware of its neighbourhood and take every precaution against its attack. It is a most sensible suggestion, and we trust to see it carried out. Thanks to the explorers, we now know that instead of being a barren desert, a great part of Africa is most exuberant in its productions, and bids fair to become one of the most promising spheres for commercial enterprise that exists in the world. Cotton, coal, and iron are found in great abundance, and of very superior quality; and we have no doubt that future explorations will reveal to us some other sources of natural wealth with which we are still unacquainted. To those gallant men who have devoted themselves to exploration we look for these further revelations, and we consequently regard with peculiar interest the accomplishment, by Mr. Frederick Green, of a work which for more than forty years has defied all the energies of those who have attempted it. We trust in his endeavour to decide the question of the sources of the Cunene and the Okovango, he will be as successful as he has been in finding the former river, and that he will thus be enabled to open up a new region, on which may be brought to bear the ameliorating influences of commerce and civilisation.

THE CATASTROPHE ON MONT BLANC.

THE *Mont Blanc* of Ancey contains some further details of the catastrophe to Captain Wright and his second-in-command, the *Capitaine de Frigate*, *l'Infernal*, after the fall of the avalanche, around him, and at the same time the account of the rescue of the two men, who were found by the *Capitaine de Frigate*, *l'Infernal*, and near it the body of *Francis Tournier*, one of the porters. His face was horribly mutilated, and the skull had been crushed by a block of ice. Captain Wright and his second-in-command, *l'Infernal*, were found by the *Capitaine de Frigate*, *l'Infernal*, and near it the body of *Francis Tournier*, one of the porters. His face was horribly mutilated, and the skull had been crushed by a block of ice. Captain Wright and his second-in-command, *l'Infernal*, were found by the *Capitaine de Frigate*, *l'Infernal*, and near it the body of *Francis Tournier*, one of the porters. His face was horribly mutilated, and the skull had been crushed by a block of ice.

A letter dated October 16th gives some additional particulars of the search for the bodies.—"Twenty-six guides left the Grande Mulets at 6 a.m. yesterday for the Grand Plateau; their progress was watched with great interest, by means of powerful glasses, until at last they were seen to divide into parties of two and three, and for some time to wander to and fro, when they were observed to collect together on one spot—"to the right of the glacier," and from many anxious glances that were cast through all the available glasses in Chamouni, the conclusion came to us that they had discovered some trace of the missing men. This surmise was at once confirmed by the fact that they were seen to be true, for at 2.30 eight guides were dispatched to Chamouni with the news that they had recovered the bodies of the two porters, *Francis Tournier* and *Francis Tournier*, and that they had left eighteen guides, with the *Indefatigable* *Silvestre* *Contet*, diligently searching for some trace of the *Capitaine de Frigate*, *l'Infernal*, and his guide, *Simond* *Michel*. After toiling away until nearly dusk they had returned to the Grande Mulets unsuccessful in finding the last trace of Captain Wright or his guide. At midday the weather had taken a sudden turn, and a heavy snow storm began to fall, which very much increased dangers and difficulties the guides had to encounter, but towards evening the heavens cleared again, and a fine frosty day (19) left the Grande Mulets, at seven o'clock, to retrace their way with the bodies of the two porters, and as I now write, 1.30, the *Capitaine de Frigate*, *l'Infernal*, and his guide, *Simond* *Michel*, two other brothers of the late Captain Wright, are expected hourly to arrive in Chamouni. From the foregoing it is thought that they will find another search to be made for their unfortunate brother who met with such an untimely end."

A PAINFUL STORY.—At the Workshop-street (London) Police-court, on the 19th, a young man, of gentlemanly address and exterior, solicited the magistrate's advice and aid under the following painful circumstances:—Applicant stated that he had been married to Frederick Gibbs, and he held a clerkship under a gentleman high in the legal profession; that some weeks since *Harriet Maria Gibbs*, his wife, in consequence of some slight difference between them that should have been immaterial, left her home abruptly with the intention of not returning, and he had not seen her since, although she was employed to the best of his belief in mangle-making, somewhere about the neighbourhood of Whitechapel. He had been endeavouring to trace her about, and he had not seen her since, although she was employed to the best of his belief in mangle-making, somewhere about the neighbourhood of Whitechapel. He had been endeavouring to trace her about, and he had not seen her since, although she was employed to the best of his belief in mangle-making, somewhere about the neighbourhood of Whitechapel.

The receipts of the Atlantic Telegraph Company, continue very satisfactory, and average from £690 to £1000 a day.

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entitled to, or which he can either at law or in equity assign or dispose of, will be sold by public auction, at the Court House, Church-street, Parramatta,
GEORGE LANGLEY, Registrar.

